

# Elena Nikolova

204 Victoria Road, London, N22 7XQ; mobile 07501308890; email [nikolova.ele@gmail.com](mailto:nikolova.ele@gmail.com)

**Nationality: Bulgarian (can work freely in the UK)**

## EDUCATION

**Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; Princeton, USA** January 2011  
*Ph.D. in Public Policy/Economics Focus*  
Completed Ph.D. coursework and field exam in the Economics Department (Economic Development)

**Gettysburg College; Gettysburg, USA** May 2002  
Bachelor of Arts in Economics; International Affairs Concentration; Minor in Mathematics  
*Summa Cum Laude; Departmental Honors*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Research Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London, UK* May 2011 – present

- Conduct and publish quantitative research on political economy, financial crises, institutions, corruption, preferences for market and democracy, and entrepreneurship. Present research at international conferences. Expert in econometric and quantitative techniques and survey analysis.
- Serve as head investigator for the Life in Transition Survey (a household and attitudes and values survey administered jointly with the World Bank throughout the post-communist region). Design and implement the survey, and manage a budget of GBP 600,000.
- Mentor analysts and interns.

*Intern, Council of Europe Development Bank, Paris, France* Summer 2007

- Performed research, analyzed financial data, and contributed to the design and evaluation of projects in Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

*Associate, Competition Practice, Charles River Associates, Washington DC* 2002 – 2005

- Conducted econometric analyses on antitrust projects using Excel, Excel Visual Basic, SAS and Stata.
- Manipulated large data sets. Identified problems with data format and consistency of observations.
- Coordinated the work of two additional analysts.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London** 2015 – 2016

- Designed and taught internal classes on introductory regression analysis and measuring gender inequality.

**EBS Business School, Germany** Summer 2014, 2015

- Designed and taught MBA/MSc class on the business environment in the transition region.

**Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University** Spring 2008, Fall 2010

- Served as a preceptor for the Master of Public Affairs class *Economic Analysis of Development* (basic and advanced track) and for the WWS undergraduate class *Democracy*.

**Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA** 2000 – 2002

- Conducted laboratory sessions in Principles of Macroeconomics and basic and advanced Calculus.

## HONORS

**Graduate scholarship, Woodrow Wilson School** 2005 – 2011

**Duncan Black Award for best paper presented by a graduate student, European Consortium for Political Research, Standing Group on Analytical Politics and Public Choice.** 2009

**Full academic scholarship, room and board, Gettysburg College.** 1998 – 2002

**Eisenhower Society/R.M. Hoffman Family Memorial Prize in Economics, Gettysburg College.** 2002

**Outstanding Student Award for Gettysburg College, Financial Executives International, PA Chapter.** 2002

**James Boyd Hartzell Memorial Award in Economics, Gettysburg College.** 2001

## SPECIAL SKILLS

Bulgarian – native language. Fluent in English, Russian and Italian; basic Danish, French and Spanish.

R, Stata, SAS, LaTeX, Excel. Additional coursework in differential equations and real analysis.

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Destined for democracy? Labor markets and political change in colonial British America, forthcoming at *British Journal of Political Science*; paper featured at [voxeu.org](http://voxeu.org)

Religious diversity and entrepreneurship in transition: lessons for policy makers (with Dora Simroth), *IZA Journal of European Labor Studies*, 2015, 4:5

The happiness gap in Eastern Europe (with Simeon Djankov and Jan Zilinsky) (forthcoming, *Journal of Comparative Economics*)  
Project featured in [Financial Times](http://Financial Times) and Russian Forbes (in Russian)

The Great Recession and social preferences: evidence from Ukraine (with Milena Djourelova and Ralph De Haas) (forthcoming, *Journal of Comparative Economics*)  
Project featured in Ukrainian media (in Russian)

How much should we trust life satisfaction data? Evidence from the Life in Transition Survey (with Peter Sanfey) (forthcoming, *Journal of Comparative Economics*)

Unexpected lessons: The political economy of the franchise in colonial Virginia (submitted for publication)

Chapter 4 of EBRD's 2011 Transition Report, "Crisis in transition: the people's perspective"

Chapter 3 of EBRD's 2013 Transition Report, "Stuck in Transition?"

Do public fund windfalls increase corruption? Evidence from a natural disaster (with Nikolay Marinov) (submitted for publication)  
Project featured in [Financial Times](http://Financial Times), [Washington Post](http://Washington Post), Bulgarian print media, Bulgarian National Radio

Austerity and pro-sociality in Greece (with Nicholas Sambanis)

The height of transition: the welfare consequences of the post-communist transition (with Alicia Adsera and Sergei Guriev)

## PH.D. COURSES TAKEN AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

### Economics Department

Mathematics for Economists

Microeconomic Theory

Econometric Theory

Economics and Politics

Economic Development

Demography

Institutional Finance: Trading and Markets (M. Fin. Program)

### Politics Department

Formal Theory

Game Theory

Comparative Political Economy of Growth and Redistribution

Comparative Politics Seminar